

REMARKS

The Office Action dated 10 May 2002 has been fully considered. Claims 1-11 have been amended and claims 12 and 13 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,999,616 issued to Fellner et al (hereinafter Fellner).

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, but has amended the application to overcome the rejections.

In particular, Applicant's claim 1 sets forth, among other steps, a method of trace activation in a mobile communications system, wherein a mobile station is in communication with a mobile communications network. The method comprising the steps of directing a communication (e.g. 21 of FIG. 2) from the mobile station (e.g. Party A of FIG. 2) to a predefined trace activation number (e.g. Party B of FIG. 2) of a tracing facility, activating tracing at the tracing facility for the mobile station from which the communication originates, and generating a trace report for the mobile station.

In other words, tracing of a mobile station is activated when the mobile station directs a communication to a predetermined trace activation number. That is to say, that the tracing number is determined automatically when the number to be traced calls a trace activation number. Any number of mobile stations may have tracing activated, simply by calling a predetermined trace activation number. One advantage of Applicant's

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claimed invention, for example, allows a maintenance person to control tracing on his mobile station by calling a trace activation number.

Fellner, on the other hand, does not teach or fairly suggest an automated trace activation initiated by a communication from the mobile station to be traced, which is in contrast to Applicant's claimed invention. Rather, Fellner teaches that the number to be traced is initiated by an input via a Web page. (See column 3 lines 66-67).

Furthermore, Fellner is different from Applicant's claimed invention because Fellner teaches that the trace is only activated when a call is made TO the receiving mobile station to be traced. (See column 4 lines 11-18). Applicant's claimed invention, rather, activates the trace when a communication is initiated FROM the mobile station to be traced to a predetermined trace activation number.

Still further, it can be seen that an entry in the Web page of Fellner must exist for every mobile station for which a trace is to be activated. Applicant's claimed invention, in contrast to Fellner, allows automatic trace activation for any number of mobile stations using only a single predetermined trace activation number. In order to activate a trace, Applicant's mobile station need only initiate a communication with the trace activation number, whereas Fellner requires that each mobile station's number to be traced must first be placed into a trace log for each particular mobile station.

Applicant submits, therefore, that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Fellner and is in condition for allowance. Applicant's claim 12 sets forth a mobile communications system having similar limitations as those set forth in claim 1. Applicant submits, therefore, that claim 12 patentably distinguishes over Fellner for at least the same reasons provided above for claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-11 and 13, which are dependent from independent claims 1 and 12, are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fellner. While Applicant does not acquiesce with any particular rejections to these dependent claims, it is believed that these rejections are now moot in view of the remarks made in connection with independent claims 1 and 12. These dependent claims include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and recite additional features which further distinguish these claims from the cited references. Therefore, dependent claims 2-11 and 13 are also allowable over Fellner.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and reasons provided above, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The amendments clarify the patentable invention without adding new subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims.

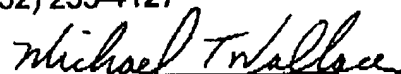
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's agent of record, Michael T. Wallace at 952-253-4127.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A
Marked Up Version of the Entire Claim Set

- 1 1. (Amended twice) A method of trace activation in a mobile
2 communications system, wherein a mobile station is in communication with [the] a
3 mobile communications network, [whereby a trace report is generated for a mobile
4 station, wherein] the method [comprises] comprising the steps of:
5 directing a communication from [a] the mobile station [is directed] to a
6 predefined trace activation number of a tracing facility; [,and]
7 activating tracing [is activated] at the tracing facility for the [communicating]
8 mobile station from which the communication originates; and [,]
9 generating a trace report for the mobile station.
- 1 2. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 1, wherein [the
2 method further comprises:] the directed communication is a call from the mobile
3 station [is directed to the predefined trace activation number] and tracing is activated
4 for the calling mobile station, and the method further comprises the step of:
5 deactivating tracing [is deactivated] when the call is ended.
- 1 3. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 1, wherein [the
2 method further comprises:] the directed communication is a message from the mobile
3 station [is directed to the predefined trace activation number and tracing is activated
4 for the said mobile station].

1 4. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 3, wherein the
2 method further comprises a step of:
3 deactivating tracing [is deactivated] when a preset time period is elapsed.

1 5. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 3, wherein the
2 method further comprises a step of:
3 deactivating tracing [is deactivated] when a second message from the mobile
4 station is directed to the predefined trace activation number.

1 6. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method
2 further comprises a step of:
3 defining at least one said trace activation number.

1 7. (Amended three times) The method according to claim 1, wherein the
2 [call] communication is [made] directed to [a] the predefined trace activation
3 number directly from the mobile station.

1 8. (Amended three times) The method according to claim 1, wherein the
2 [call] communication is forwarded to [a] the predefined trace activation number.

1 9. (Amended three times) The method according to claim 1, wherein
2 [the method further comprises:] tracing is activated and deactivated automatically at
3 the switching center.

1 10. (Amended three times) The method according to claim 1, wherein
2 subscriber tracing is activated for the [communicating] mobile station.

1 11. (Amended three times) The method according to claim 1, wherein
2 equipment tracing is activated for the [communicating] mobile station.